(v) Live Mails Survey at regular intervals both in rural and urban areas to identify weak links and streamline the mail transmission and delivery system.

(vi) Regular co-ordination meetings with Airlines, Railways and State Road Transport Authorities to sort out problems relating to transmission of mails.

(vii) Encouraging pre-sorting of mail by the bulk mailers by providing discount in postage as an incentive, and appropriate pricing to attact more customers.

(viii) Educating the customers on installation of mailboxes on the ground floor of multi-storeyed buildings.

(ix) Preparation of triplicate registered lists in the destination mail offices for bulk mailers to reduce the load on the delivery post office and to speed up delivery of such mail.

(x) To cope up with the seasonal mail, separate centres with adequate manpower are opened to ensure expeditious handling of such mail.

(xi) Innovative use of PIN codes.

(xii) Dedicated delivery staff are engaged in a large number of offices exclusively for Speed Post delivery.

(xiii) Introduction of a freighter aircraft for conveyance of mail in the North East Region.

Spectrum policy

1039. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Telecom Engineering Centre (TEC) have given recommendations on spectrum usages charges;

(b) if so, the complete details of recommendations made by TEC;

(c) whether it is a fact that apart from DoT, several other technical arms of Government including TRAI, Group of Ministers (GoM), TEC, Wireless Wing of DoT and Ministry of Defence are involved in the process of allocation of spectrum to Telecom Operators;

(d) if so, the reasons that inspite of so many departments involved in the exercise no specific guidelines have been framed so far by Government;

(e) whether Government will announce spectrum policy without any further delay; and

(f) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC) has not made any recommendation on the spectrum usage charges.

(c) WPC (Wireless Planning and Coordination) Wing of DoT, is the nodal agency for spectrum management within the country. Other concerned Groups in Government, including TRAI and TEC etc. are consulted appropriately, for ensuring equitable and optimum use of

spectrum. Ministry of Defence is consulted regarding their spectrum usage and vacation in GSM bands. A Group of Ministers (GOM) has also been constituted by the Government for "vacation of spectrum and raising resources for the purposes."

(d) to (f) A Committee in DoT has been constituted to recommend the revision of subscriber based spectrum allocation criteria for mobile services. The matter is *sub-judice* before Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT).

Review of spectrum issues

1040. SHRMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister is seriously considering the issue of review of spectrum issues and has decided to review progress on the vacation of spectrum by the defence services for use by telecom operators, as well as on additional allocation to existing operators;

(b) if so, whether Prime Minister has received communication from Chairman Bharti Airtel and Reliance communication Ltd. On 6th November on allocation of spectrum;

(c) whether Prime Minister had given instruction during the review meeting for allocation of spectrum; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Prime Minister and the final decision taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Government is pursuing the vacation/release of spectrum from Defence services for unimpeded growth of public mobile telecom services. A Group of Ministers (GOM) has been set up on "vacation of spectrum and raising resources for the purposes".

(b) A D.O. letter no nil dated 6.11.07 addressed by the Chairman, Reliance Communications Limited to the Hon'ble Prime Minister, has been received. As regards receipt by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 6th November of communications from Chairman, Bharti Airtel, it is intimated that no such communication has been received.

(c) and (d) A Committee has been set up to recommend the revision of subscriber based criteria for allotment of 2G spectrum. However, the matter is *sub-judice* in Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT).

Tax from telecom service providers

1041. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the telecom service providers have to pay upto 30 per cent of their revenues in taxes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government has any plans to cut down the taxes in telecom sector?